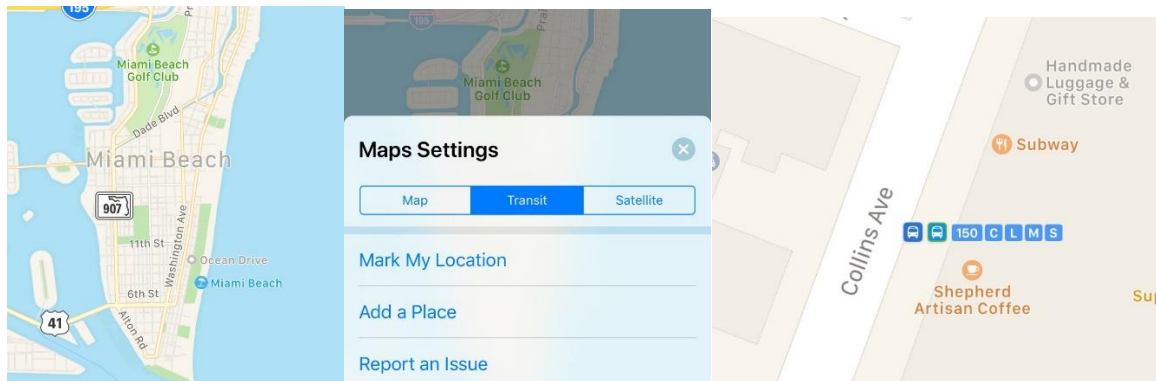


MAKING A HOUSE SIT SELECTION

Part I of IV

Of course, your first search criteria will be location. If you don't want to go to Phoenix in August, then don't search there. Look for something in British Columbia, New England, Montana or wherever. If I see one that catches my eye, I check what it will cost me to get there. If I'm flying, I like Southwest Air or see if Priceline has any good rates. If it's not too far away, I check Amtrak or a bus or a car rental. This is before I apply to the sit.

I also check the map that's shown with the listing to see if it accurately placed the home's location or put it right in the middle of downtown. If the homeowner says in the narrative, they are in the ABC neighborhood in Portland or near the XYZ BART station in the bay area, I use my iPhone Maps app to see what's around. I can reset it to 'Transit' to see if there's public transit close enough that I can get to the house if the homeowner doesn't offer to pick me up.



I want to know I can walk to a market and not spend a fortune on Uber or Lyft. Does Uber or Lyft even operate in the area? Open the apps and start to book a ride in that area and you'll know if either operates there. Are there inexpensive, but descent, hostels or motels nearby if I need one? Of course, if you are driving, most of this is not a problem.

Since I'm paying for my own travel, I certainly won't travel far for a very short sit. Sometimes I know there are more in the area, along the way or beyond, so I'll apply to one I wouldn't do alone. I try to get one confirmed, then I fill in around it, always keeping in mind what day and time we agreed I'd arrive and leave, so I can make travel plans. Make sure they are all far enough in the future to wait for confirmations. If you apply to sits that overlap and secure one sit, let the others know you must withdraw your application. To Be Continued...